

Barkley House
410 South Florida Blanca Street
Pensacola
Escambia County
Florida

HABS No. FLA-148

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PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey
Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

BARKLEY HOUSE

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Location: 410 South Florida Blanca Street, Pensacola, Escambia County, Florida. The house is located northeast of the intersection of Main and Florida Blanca Streets, on the shore of Pensacola Bay.

Present Owner and Occupant: Mrs. Elizabeth G. Haygood

Present Use: Residence of owner

Statement of Significance: This structure, according to local traditions, is one of the few surviving early nineteenth century masonry buildings in Pensacola. The house is named for George W. Barkley, a prominent Pensacola businessman.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Original and subsequent owners: Lot 25 (80' x 160') was deeded by the British in 1766 to Joseph Crow, who then sold it to Thomas Galbreadth. After 1783, this property was abandoned and it reverted to the Spanish crown. Lot 25, with no reference to a house, was sold at auction in New Orleans on May 2, 1804, to Joaquin de Osorno y Viana, a Spanish governmental official. Captain Osorno, who held a number of posts at various places in West Florida since 1786, was stationed at Mobile in 1804. He held the property for almost two years selling on April 12, 1806, to Margarite Gagnet, who owned several other Pensacola houses and lots. The purchase price was \$500. There is no indication in the records of any structure on Lot 25 at the time of the sale. Madame Gagnet held the property until June 2, 1818, when she sold it to John Inerarity for \$1200, which included "...all that lot of ground with a house thereon...." Inerarity, who was merely acting as an agent for Colonel William P. Anderson, transferred the property to him on July 7, 1818, for the same amount. Anderson transferred it to Joseph Saul on July 8 for \$5,975. The United States Land Commissioners confirmed Anderson's title to the property in 1822. When he failed to pay the taxes on the property, the city seized the lot and sold it at a court house sale to Charles L. Garnier of New Orleans on October 15, 1827. Garnier was represented in this transaction by George W. Barkley, who

purchased the property "...with improvements thereon...." from Garnier on September 17, 1835, for \$100 plus the exchange of a lot valued at \$600.

In addition to Lot 25, Barkley had acquired Lot 31 at the corner of Zaragoza and Florida Blanca Streets in 1825 from William Barnett for \$500. Barkley had also acquired the adjoining Lot 26 to the east of Lot 25, and all three lots were passed to his heirs after his death in late 1853. In April of 1874, Clara L. Barkley and Charles Barkley sold the three lots to George Wentworth. The property was sold in 1899 to David Sheeham, who died causing the property to revert back to Wentworth who sold it to Charles Bliss in 1907. The Bliss heirs sold the property back to Wentworth in 1908. The Boswell family bought the property around 1949 and sold it by 1968 to the present owner.

2. Date of erection: It appears that the house, though traditionally considered to have been built during the British occupancy (1763-1781) of the area, was probably built during Margarite Gagnet's ownership of the property as indicated by the purchase price and the sale price. Concurring with the Gagnet building date, it was indicated in a description of the shore line of Pensacola during the British period that the governor's house, inside the stockade, was the only large structure. In addition, an article in the St. Louis Gazette of 1810 indicated that all the houses of Pensacola were of wood except that of William Panton, an early owner of Lot 26.
 3. Architect: Unknown
 4. Original plans and construction information: None known
 5. Alterations and additions: The previous owner P. L. Boswell, in 1960 added a wide porch on the east side of the house. Originally, a narrow porch extended along the south, east and west sides of the house. Original cast iron balusters, steps to the street level, wood blinds at the windows, double glazed doors and sidelights at the entrance doorway have been removed.
 6. Important old views: An early undated photograph has been photocopied and is included with this data. An early watercolor painting of the rear of the house indicates a back wing and a detached kitchen.
- B. Historical Events and Persons Connected with the Structure: William P. Anderson was a native of Tennessee and served in the U. S. Infantry until 1800. Upon his discharge from the army he was appointed U. S. Attorney for the District of West

Tennessee. A longtime and intimate friend of Andrew Jackson, the two were associated in several Tennessee business ventures, mainly dealing with land speculation. Anderson was a member of Jackson's staff before the War of 1812. He became a colonel during the war and accompanied Jackson to Pensacola in 1815. Anderson arrived in Pensacola the second time with Jackson on May 24, 1818, and when Jackson left on May 30, Anderson remained behind as part of the provisional government. He joined others who were speculatively buying Pensacola property which included Lot 25 which he sold immediately to Joseph Saul, one of his financial associates of New Orleans. 17-PENSA 7-

Saul had been a cashier at the Bank of Orleans in 1815 where he had handled some of Jackson's and the U. S. Government's financial transactions. He and Jackson were close friends when Jackson wrote on March 24, 1824, to Postmaster General John McLean recommending that Saul become Postmaster of New Orleans.

George Barkley was born in London, England, in 1793 and was in Baltimore, Maryland, by 1819 when he became a naturalized citizen of the United States. He was appointed customs inspector to Pensacola and arrived there in 1820. By 1822 he was married to Clara Garnier and had allied himself with the influential Garnier family. In 1831 Barkley was referred to as a merchant when he bought part interest in the sloop, "Yankee." It was recorded in 1838 that he purchased the schooner, "Alexander of Pensacola," for \$2000. Barkley died in Pensacola in 1853. In 1860 his heirs were assessed at the ninth highest rate in Escambia County for holdings including eleven lots and other properties such as mills, gins and ferries.

C. Sources of Information:

1. Primary and unpublished sources: County Court Records, Clerk of Courts Office, Escambia County Court House; Spanish Archival Books (Land Records).
2. Secondary and published sources: None known

Prepared by Ula L. Manning--1962
Samuel Proctor--1969
Leora Sutton--1970

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

- A. General Description: This raised, one-and-a-half story structure is constructed of brick with an ashlarred stucco finish. The house has a gable roof with three dormers on both east and west elevations and east and west porches. The condition of the

fabric is good and much original material has survived several modifications.

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B. Description of Exterior:

1. Overall dimensions: The structure is 42'-2" x 56'-2" with the short dimension paralleling Florida Blanca Street.
2. Foundations: The foundations consist of brick piers and bearing walls. Where exposed there are stepped footings. Fireplace foundations consist of piers engaged with the house foundation walls. An opening in the center of the west foundation wall has been closed with a masonry panel set above the continuous footing. There are fragments of an isolated brick pier at the south side of the structure.
3. Wall construction, finish and color: The brick walls are 1'-4" thick and are constructed in common bond of $2\frac{1}{4}"$ x $4\frac{1}{2}"$ x $9\frac{1}{2}"$, average, bricks with $\frac{1}{2}"$ mortar joints. The exterior of the gable and foundation walls are stuccoed which has $\frac{1}{2}"$ scored joints imitating ashlar stone work in a running bond. The 12" x 24" units vary to accommodate openings and are painted white. Modern vertical tongue and groove, V-joint siding closes the original east porch.
4. Structural system: The platform framing system consists of 7" vertical and 9" horizontal hewn house beams with spliced joints near the center of the span supporting straight sawn first floor joists, $3\frac{7}{8}"$ x $9\frac{5}{8}"$, which are set into the walls. 7" square beams are under the east rooms. There are wood and steel joists under the east porch. The second floor joists, $2\frac{7}{8}"$ x 10", have $\frac{1}{2}"$ beaded edges. House beams, $6\frac{7}{8}"$ wide, their depth obscured by trim and ceilings, have $\frac{3}{8}"$ beaded edges. Free standing and engaged columns are $3\frac{7}{8}"$ x $6\frac{7}{8}"$ with chamfered edges and have cyma reversa profiles at the top of the chamfers. The 2" x 5" rafters are mortise and tenoned; a wooden pin secures the ridge joint.
5. Porches: The west porch, extending the length of the house, has a modern wood balustrade and modern stuccoed brick piers which replaced earlier Tuscan columns. The east porch, added to the house in the early 1960s, also has brick piers and a wood balustrade. The original apron porch at the east elevation has been enclosed. Beaded, second-floor joists, $2\frac{3}{4}"$ x $9\frac{5}{8}"$ are exposed in the central space. Beaded chair rail, $\frac{3}{4}"$ x $2\frac{1}{2}"$, with a moulded cap is located at the west, roughly plastered porch wall and a fragment can also be found at the east porch wall. Stuccoed brick stairways, which appear to be

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of modern construction, are at each end of the west porch and at the center of the east porch.

6. Chimneys: The chimneys are brick, stuccoed and scored to imitate ashlar, and have corbelled neckings and caps. The four chimneys, two at each gable, extend above the west slope of the roof.
7. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: Central doorways open onto the east and west porches. The double doors of each opening are glazed with fourteen lights in each leaf and are set under single light transoms. The frames are mortise and tenoned and have wooden pin fasteners. Double screen doors are hung in each opening.
 - b. Windows and shutters: All of the window frames in the masonry openings have mortise and tenon joints with wooden pin fasteners. At the foundation walls, opening from the ground floor, the window frames (2 3/4" x 8 3/4" sills) have square mortises which apparently received the tenons of wooden bars. The window openings have board and batten shutters. Typically the windows have nine-over-nine, six-over-six, and twelve-over-twelve light sash, singly hung. The sash are doubly hung at the first floor, south elevation windows and have nine-over-nine lights. Tripled two-over-two light casement windows flank the east entry. The paint texture of the west window jambs indicates that there were originally shutters or blinds.
8. Roof:
 - a. Shape and covering: The gable roof, parallel to the street, breaks in pitch at the wall line to accommodate the existing porches. It is roofed with asphalt shingles.
 - b. Cornice and eaves: The eaves and verges are boxed.
 - c. Dormers: There are three various sized dormers on each roof slope. Each dormer is gabled, has boxed eaves and rakes, and has asphalt shingle roofing. The gables have flush siding or weatherboarding, though the cheeks are weaterboarded. The east dormers with eave returns, have six-over-six light sash. The west dormers have three-over-two light sash.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans:

- a. Ground floor: This is an unfinished space between grade and the first floor. It is accessible under the east porch.
- b. First floor: A central hallway has two rooms on each side. The enclosed east porch has a bathroom at the north end and a kitchen at the south end.
- c. Second floor: The wider central hall of the second floor separates two main rooms with later bathroom partitions.

2. Stairway: The quarter turn stairway with winders at the first floor central hallway, borrows space, the width of the run, from the northeast room. Typically the stair has 8" risers and 9½" treads. The fascia is beaded at the second floor stair well. A modern wrought iron balustrade replaces turned wood newels and balusters, and moulded hand rails, a section of which exists at the second floor.
3. Flooring: The ground floor has concrete slab and compacted earth floors. Modern brick paving is located under the east porch. The first floor has 4" to 5" tongue and groove pine boards which are adzed on the underside over the joists. The second floor has 7" to 9" wide tongue and groove pine boards. There are miscellaneous modern coverings.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: The walls are plastered on sawn wood lath where exposed. The ceilings are plastered or have the exposed, beaded joists and exposed floor boards with ¼" beading. A wood slat ceiling is located in the first floor hallway. The north board partition of the first floor hallway is plastered on both sides.
5. Doorways and doors: Modern folding louvered doors exist in the doorway between the south rooms in addition to other modern louvered and six panel doors in other openings. There are traditional four panel doors of mortise and tenon construction. Wood thresholds are located in all the doorways except at the opening between the south rooms. At the first floor the doorway between the northeast room and the bathroom has a transom corresponding to the opening between the southeast room and the kitchen.
6. Decorative features: Generally decorative trim is limited to beading and chamfering of the various structural members. In addition there are mid-nineteenth century mantelpieces,

which are not original, with reeded pilasters supporting a frieze board and a mantel shelf. HABS
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7. Notable hardware: None 17-PENSA
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8. Mechanical equipment:

a. Lighting: There are no original fixtures.

b. Heating: Although now heated with a floor furnace, the house does have fireplaces in each major room. The fireboxes have been rebuilt at the first floor. The chimney breasts curve outward at the ceiling to support the second floor hearths. The headers are mortise and tenoned into the joists.

D. Site and Surroundings: This structure faces west on Florida Blanca Street and is approximately 100 feet north of the shoreline of Pensacola Bay. The property is enclosed with a chainlink fence. There is a variety of fruit and nut trees and cabbage palms which are part of the informal landscaping. A concrete paved terrace and a stone cooking grill are located near the southeast corner of the site. Fragments of a concrete curb are located near the south end of the structure.

Prepared by F. Blair Reeves, AIA
HABS--Pensacola
July 15, 1968

PART III. PROJECT INFORMATION

This project, sponsored by the Pensacola Historical Restoration and Preservation Commission, now known as the Historic Pensacola Preservation Board of Trustees, in cooperation with the Historic American Buildings Survey, was recorded during the summer of 1968 in Pensacola under the direction of James C. Massey, Chief of HABS; Professor F. Blair Reeves, AIA (University of Florida), Project Supervisor; and Student Assistant Architects John O. Crosby (University of Florida), David L. Van de Ven, Jr. (Texas Technological College), and Edward Bondi, Jr. (University of Florida). The historical information was prepared by Professor Samuel Proctor (University of Florida), by Assistant Historian Linda V. Ellsworth (Historic Pensacola Preservation Board), and by Rodd L. Wheaton (Architect, HABS) who edited all the data in 1972.

Addendum to

HABS No. FL-148

Barkley House

Seville Square Historic District

410 South Florida Blanca Street

Pensacola

Escambia County

Florida

as recorded in 1962, 1968 and 1972

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PHOTOGRAPHS

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